

## Addendum to the AuSPICA Seed Scheme Conditions

Additional conditions for the entry of seed stocks into the AuSPICA seed Scheme for black label seed potatoes

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### **Requirement for all seed lots**

All black labels seed entering the AuSPICA Scheme must meet the minimum requirements under the National Standard 2016<sup>1</sup>.

### **Additional specific requirements are provided in the Schedule below:**

Defect	Relevant section
Potato Virus Y (PVY)	A Potato Virus Y (PVY) requirements for importation of black label seed stocks into the AuSPICA Scheme
Blackleg ( <i>Dickeya dianthicola</i> )	B <i>Dickeya dianthicola</i> requirement for black label seed being imported into the AuSPICA Scheme.
Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd)	C Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd) requirement for black label seed being imported into the AuSPICA Scheme
Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN)	D Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) requirements for seed potato material entering the AuSPICA seed Scheme.

#### **A. Potato Virus Y (PVY) requirements for importation of black label seed stocks into the AuSPICA Scheme**

1. It is a requirement for all black label seed that is to enter the AuSPICA Seed Scheme to have a laboratory based diagnostic test done using a 200 leaf or tuber equivalent per 5 Ha of crop. This must be tested in groups of 20 with no more than 10 leaves or tuber equivalent per test sample.
2. To ensure limited risk of late season infection of crop, the leaf sampling for PVY testing must be done less than 10 days prior to crop defoliation or crop senescence.
3. Tuber tests must be done using a grow-on or direct tuber test method.
4. All samples for PVY testing must be done under the official control<sup>2</sup> of the certifying authority and
5. There must be a system in place that enable traceability<sup>3</sup> of samples and test reports.
6. All documentation including sampling reports and diagnostic reports must be sent with any importation and ultimately be reviewed by AuSPICA.
7. Crops submitted without documentation and/or testing results for PVY may be rejected for submission into the AuSPICA Seed Scheme. Additional sampling and diagnostic

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.horticulture.com.au/growers/help-your-business-grow/research-reports-publications-fact-sheets-and-more/pt15004/>

<sup>2</sup> **Official control:** as defined in ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms (FAO 2023) “*The active enforcement of mandatory phytosanitary regulations and the application of mandatory phytosanitary procedures with the objective of eradication or containment of quarantine pests or for the management of regulated non-quarantine pests.*”

<sup>3</sup> **Traceability:** as defined in the UNECE Seed Standard (2016) “*A system of documentation that enables the source and performance of a lot to be tracked during the classification process.*”

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testing for PVY may be a requirement to enable eligibility of a seed stock into the AuSPICA Scheme. Any additional testing required will be at the cost of the business submitting the seed for certification. In such case, any additional testing required would need to be arranged through AuSPICA.

**B. *Dickeya dianthicola* requirement for black label seed being imported into the AuSPICA Scheme.**

**a. With no known occurrence of *Dickeya dianthicola* in certified seed production**

1. All observations of blackleg during routine inspections for seed certification must be collected and laboratory tested to confirm absence of *Dickeya dianthicola*.
2. Laboratory based diagnostic testing is to be done using PCR based assays.
3. The relevant certification authority should provide evidence to AuSPICA of the status surveillance program to support the claim that there is no known occurrence of *D. dianthicola*.
4. Reporting of seasonal data is required to demonstrate ongoing evidence of disease status.

**b. With known occurrence of *Dickeya dianthicola* in certified seed production**

1. For confirmation of *Dickeya dianthicola* status, a 400-tuber sample must be collected under the official control of the certifying authority per seed lot.
2. Laboratory based diagnostic testing is to be done using PCR based assays.
3. All documentation must be supplied with the consignment for submission to AuSPICA in the submission process.

**C. Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd) requirement for black label seed being imported into the AuSPICA Scheme**

**a. With no known occurrence of PSTVd (all hosts) in the region of certified seed production**

- i. To provide assurance that PSTVd is not known to occur in certified seed potatoes in Australia, targeted surveillance for PSTVd in potato crops submitted for certified seed production is required.
- ii. Each State Scheme must use the same sampling and testing protocol. The sampling protocol must be similar to that used by Sun *et al* 2004<sup>4</sup>. Briefly, samples of potato leaves to be collected from 10% of all seed crops submitted for certification per farm. A leaf sample unit will include 50 leaves. The samples will be sent to an approved laboratory for analysis using RT-PCR with NATA accreditation. All samples must be collected under official control of the certifying authority.
- iii. Through each seed certification program adopting this protocol that status of PSTVd in seed potatoes can be assured across Australia and enable transfer of certified seed stocks between States and regions,

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<sup>4</sup> Sun, M., Siemsen, S., Campbell, W., Guzman, P., Davidson, R., Whitworth, J., Bourgoin, T., Axford, J., Schrage, W., Leever, G., Westra, A., Marquardt, S., El-Nashaar, H., McMorran, J., Gutbrod, O., Wessels, T. & Coltman, R. (2004). Survey of potato spindle tuber viroid in seed potato growing areas of the United States. *American Journal of Potato Research*, 81, 227-231.

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and export market access relating to PSTVd can be maintained on science-based evidence.

**b. With known occurrence of PSTVd (all hosts) in the region of certified seed production**

- i. In regions that are known to have a level of PSTVd in potatoes and/or other crops, a requirement of 200 leaves or tuber equivalent be subject to testing per seed crop.
- ii. The sampling and testing must be done on all crops that are intended to produce seed for further multiplication under the AuSPICA certification Scheme. That is, they are traded as black label seed into the AuSPICA Scheme.
- iii. Traceability of evidence of sampling and testing must be under the official control of the certifying authority.

**c. Training of certification officers**

The certifying authority must ensure all inspectors are deemed to be competent in the identification of PSTVd symptoms in potato crop when conducting routine inspections.

**D. Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) requirements for seed potato material entering the AuSPICA seed Scheme.**

1. As of 2023/24 season, all certified seed potato lots entering the AuSPICA seed program must be from a field that has been soil sampled (10 x10m grid with 500g per 2 Ha) and laboratory tested and confirmed to be negative for the presence of PCN both species *Globodera rostochiensis* and *G. pallida*.
2. No farm lot can have a known positive for PCN and be used for certified seed potato production.
3. Area freedom certificates for PCN must be supported with surveillance activities using laboratory-based assays, and as such, field surveys should be used to support area freedom status of a specified region.
4. Traceability of evidence of soil sampling and laboratory testing must be under the official control of the certifying authority. Any soil sampling for PCN should meet the National Minimum requirements for pest surveillance In Australia.